

## REGISTER ANALYSIS OF LANGUAGE USE IN THE JAKARTA POST'S FOOTBALL NEWS

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### ABSTRACT

This research investigated the types of linguistic forms of English register and the meaning of register used in The Jakarta Post Football news. The linguistic forms that are investigated are specifically in content words and noun phrases. To obtain the data, documentation was used as the instrument. The data were analyzed using the model proposed by Elo and Kyangas (2007), it was found that there are two kinds of data in the form of content words, eight data of nouns, two verbs. In the form of the noun phrase, the researcher found two data in the category of attributive adjective and seven data of nouns in noun phrases. All of English registers found in The Jakarta Post's football news have different meanings when compared with their conceptual meaning in the dictionary. The most dominant type of change in meaning is social meaning.

**Keywords:** *conceptual meaning, newspaper, register, social meaning*

### INTRODUCTION

Language variation can be viewed from two different focuses, focus on users and focus on uses (Holmes, 2013). From users' perspective, variation involves regional and social dialects, variation by gender and age, and variation by ethnicity and social networks. From use's perspective, variation covers the aspects of styles, contexts, and registers. The present study looks at the register, one of the language variations based on uses. Register refers to the language of a group of people with common interests or jobs; or the language used in situations associated with such groups (Holmes, 2001, p.262). The register is a

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language variety used in a certain community, with specific meanings distinguished according to use (Holmes, 2001). It is used in a certain situation, occupation/certain groups and usually has certain purposes

Biber and Finegan (1994) are researchers who have studied registers more in-depth. According to them, a register is a language variety viewed with respect to its context of use. The terms *register*, *genre*, *text types*, and *styles* have been used to refer to language varieties associated with situational *uses*. All these terms are distinguished from *dialect*, which is used to refer to language varieties associated with groups of *users* (as determined by geographic region, education, social class, sex, and so on).

Through a register analysis, this research shows some components that are identified in the data source, such as contextual characteristics in registers, situational characteristics in registers, and functional characteristics and conventional association characteristics between context characteristics and situational characteristics in registers. There are context markers, which are distinctive linguistic features found in only particular register. For example, “*two second-half goals in less than three minutes from Serge Gnabry and another from prolific Pole Robert Lewandowski earned Bayern Munich a thumping 3-0 victory at Chelsea in their Champions League last 16, first leg on Tuesday*” (The Jakarta Post, 26 February 2020). The term leg is described as the limbs on which a person or animal walks and stands. On the other hand, in the football field, that term as any kind of round of the game consists of two legs; first leg and second leg. Situational and functional characterizations should be able to describe the specification of similarities and differences among registers that are used in a particular field tenor, mode, and many varieties like spoken and written, formal and informal, conversations, narratives, essay, fictions and even headlines in a newspaper.

In addition, register is also used in mass media, such as magazines, newspapers, etc. We can find many registers used in mass media in many different fields. For example, we can see the register used in politics, banking, education, trading, sports, etc. Talking about newspapers (the object of this research), the language used in the newspapers is written. The written language in newspapers tends to be more formal than oral language, and it is more likely to provide standard language. The important thing of the newspaper is that it must use written language appropriately to deliver the messages properly.

In the case of newspaper writing styles, people often find English registers inserted in the news writing. The writer takes the source of data

in *The Jakarta Post* football news, especially the football register. The readers can find English registers in the form of words, phrases, or clauses. For instance, the writer notes, “*Loren and Joaquin, the latter from a free-kick, both came close before Aissa Mandi headed in a Joaquin cross to make it 1-1 in the 33rd minute*” (The Jakarta Post, 19 February 2018). The word *free-kick* is only found in sports, especially football. So, *free-kick* includes English sport registers. *Free-kick* means an opportunity to kick the ball without the other team getting involved, allowed when a player from the other team has not obeyed one of the rules.

Studies on the analysis of register have been conducted by several researchers such as Fitri (2001), Imamah (2003), and Krisnawati (2013). Their studies have shown that meanings of certain words, expressions, and so on, are not always literal but depending their registers. Therefore, related to the content of English registers used in *The Jakarta Post* football news, the writer believes that it is also important to analyze English sports registers, both in the forms and meanings, to improve our understanding of their use. This study will look at different linguistic forms of the register, and two different types of register meanings: conceptual meaning and social meaning as laid out by Leech (1981 and 1979). However, analyses of registers in football news have not been performed in any previous studies. The present study is entitled, “*Register Analysis of Language Use in the Jakarta Post’s Football News*”.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Definition of Register

In this study, register refers to the linguistic form (content word and phrases) which is used in The Jakarta Post Football News. It is supported by Holmes (2001, p. 246) register is the specific vocabulary associated with different occupational groups. Moreover, the term register is described as the language of groups of people with common interest or jobs or used in situations associated with such groups. In short, we can define register as a language used for a particular purpose or in a particular social setting.

## **Register Situation Types**

### ***Field***

According to Halliday (2014, p.41), the field means that the goals of the situation, or intended outcomes, are concerned with field, more specifically with the development of field, as in an “expounding” context where the speaker’s goal might be to construe a taxonomy for the addressee, classification of some classes of phenomena. When texts operate in such situations, they tend to be organized in terms of field or in terms of the structure of the field, as when a text is organized according to the classes of a taxonomy. In other words, field is where we are looking at what topics we are talking about, not the place. Field understanding is important to acquire by both speaker and listener to avoid misinterpretations due to variation of knowledge of a field. Even if the speaker and listener are in the same occupation or professional field, there is a slight chance that misunderstanding and misinterpretation occur because they have different experiences or different flight hours.

### ***Mode***

Halliday (2014, p.33) said that mode is what role is being played by language and other semiotic systems in the situation: (1) the division of labor between semiotic activities and social ones (ranging from semiotic activities as constitutive of the situation to semiotic activities as facilitating); (2) the division of labor between linguistic activities and other semiotic activities; (3) rhetorical mode: the orientation of the text towards field (e.g., Informative, didactic, explanatory, explicatory) or tenor (e.g., persuasive, exhortatory, hortatory, polemic); (4) turn: dialogic or monolog; (5) medium: written or spoken; (6) channel: phonic or graphic.

### ***Tenor***

Halliday (2014, p.41) said that tenor means that the goals of the situation, or intended outcomes, are concerned with tenor, more specifically with the relationship between speaker and addressee – with maintaining or changing this relationship, as when speakers try to bring their addressees closer to their own positions. This is part of seeing to whom we are talking. We can see who is the listener and their connection to the speaker who is present and participating in the conversation. From this part, it is quite essential to see the listener to avoid unnecessary utterances which may lead to confusion due to the ignorance of the listener.

### **Linguistic Feature/ Form Types**

According to Biber and Conrad (2009, p.78), there were 15 types of linguistic features or forms that might be investigated in a register analysis. In this research, the writer only used two linguistic features/form types to investigate the register analysis: content words and noun phrases.

### **Meanings**

According to Leech (1981), there are seven types of meaning: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

#### ***Conceptual meaning***

According to Leech (1981, p.9), conceptual meaning (sometimes called denotative or cognitive meaning) is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistic communication, and the writer thinks it can be shown to be integral to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning are not (which is not to say that conceptual meaning is the most important element of every act of linguistic communication).

#### ***Connotative meaning***

Leech (1981) proposed that connotative meaning is connected to a certain word that can be related to the word. The meaning of an utterance can be figured by relating the utterance to another reference that has a close meaning to the utterance. It has multiple meanings according to the situation that the word used. Logically, the audience can understand the meaning of utterance by knowing the other meaning an utterance contains and seeing the context of the situation when the utterance is performed.

#### ***Social and Affective meaning***

Social meaning is that which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use. In part, we decode the social meaning through our recognition of different dimensions and levels of style within the same language (Leech, 1981, p.14).

Furthermore, Leech (1981, p.15) added that affective meaning is only a small step that reflects how language reflects the speaker's

personal feelings, including his attitude to the listener or his attitude to something he is talking about.

### ***Reflected and Collocative meaning***

According to Leech (1981, p.16), reflected meaning arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense. In addition, Leech (1981, p.17) said that collocative meaning consists of the associations a word acquires based on the meanings of words that tend to occur in its environment.

### ***Thematic meaning***

Leech (1981, p.19) said that thematic meaning is communicated by how a speaker or writer organizes the message in terms of the order, focus, and emphasis.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Method**

This study is a content analysis, which is a research method used to analyze written data (such as a document, book, magazine, etc.), and verbal or visual communication messages to provide the knowledge and deep understanding toward the data by using qualitative or quantitative data. The data was presented in the descriptive form by describing the phenomenon of register uses. The final report of this research is in a narration form rather than statistical analysis.

### **Source of Data**

In this research, the data were collected from the newspaper. The research data are sentences containing the register words and phrases used in The Jakarta Post Football News published between January and October 2020.

### **Research Instrument**

The writer used documentation as the instrument in collecting the data. In this research, the writer acts as the primary data collector. The data are produced by finding, organizing, and reconstructing the writer's note called a written document.

### **Techniques of Data Collection**

The data were collected by using a document analysis method. Bowen (2009, p. 27) states that:

“document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating document printed electronic material”.

The writer noted the sentences or words in the newspaper that are contained the register. For more explanation, the writer wrote some steps in collecting the data in the following part.

1. *The Jakarta Post Football news* was read by the writer.
2. The sentences that contain the register in *The Jakarta Post Football news* were marked by the writer.
3. The register used in *The Jakarta Post Football news* was selected and identified by the writer.

### **Techniques of Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer follows the steps proposed by Elo and Kyangas (2007, p. 109), as described in the following.

First is open coding: notes and heading were written in the text while doing close reading. The document was read as many as necessary by the writer. In this study, the writer used some codes. For example, they were 01/JPN/JAN1/PG01, W, NP, W.N, W.V, W.A, NP.aadj, and NP.n. The W letter stands for the ‘word’, the next letters stand for the kind of content words, NP letter stands for the ‘noun phrases’, and the next letters stand for the kind of noun phrases.

Secondly is creating categories: in this section, the writer grouped the data into two groups: nouns and phrases. The aim of grouping the data is to explain that the data belong to different linguistic forms. The writer used the theory of Biber and Conrad (2009) in grouping the data. As mentioned in chapter II, 15 linguistic forms/features can be investigated for register analysis. The writer only focuses on content word classes (noun and verb) and noun phrases in this research.

Lastly is Abstraction: Abstraction means formulating a general description of the research topic through generating categories. In this step, the writer describes the research results and organizes them in the form of narration. The writer quoted some parts of the texts that used register in order to support the explanation of the result.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Research Findings

This research deals with the registers used in *The Jakarta Post* football news. This chapter presents the analyses of linguistic forms and meanings of English register used in the newspaper. The forms and meanings of the registers will be discussed in details in this chapter. This chapter is divided into two parts, data analysis, and discussion.

To make the analysis easier, the writer used some codes. As already mentioned in previous chapters, the scope of this study is limited to registers that belong to words and phrases of nouns and adjectives. Thus, the important and recurrent terms that will appear in the analysis will include Words, Noun Phrases, Word-Noun, Word-Verb, Noun Phrases – attributive adjectives, Noun Phrases – Nouns. For ease of writing and efficiency, they are abbreviated accordingly, as shown in Table 4.1. Data identification method also uses codes in abbreviation listed as the last item in the same table.

**Table 4. 1** Abbreviation convention.

Abbreviation	Explanation
W	Words
NP	Noun Phrases
WN	Word-Noun
WV	Word-Verb
NP. aadj	Noun Phrases – attributive adjective
NP.n	Noun Phrases – Nouns
01/JPN/JAN1	Data Example No 1 / The Jakarta Post / January edition

The abbreviation convention above will be used throughout the data analysis and discussion section.

### Data Analysis

This study identified the total number of 19 register items found in *The Jakarta Post* from January until October 2020. For the analysis, the



writer classified the register items based on the theory of Biber and Conrad (2009). This study is only concerned with words and phrases regarding linguistic forms. In addition, this research also focuses on the meaning of register. Meaning is defined as the information or concepts that a sender intends to convey in communication with a receiver. Leech (1981) classified seven types of meaning which include conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning. From seven types of meaning, there are only two types of meaning used in analyzing the data in this research. These two types of meaning are conceptual meaning and social meaning. As mentioned in Chapter Two, conceptual meaning refers to the meaning that uses the dictionary as the reference. Social meaning is what a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use (Leech, 1981, p.14).

### **Content Word**

As mentioned in chapter two, content word refer to words that carry the content or the meaning of a sentence. Content words are usually nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. According to Biber and Conrad (2009, p.78), content word has four classes, but in this research, the writer only focuses on two classes, noun, and verb.

The presentation is done by presenting a table to summarize the register, and then an explanation of its conceptual and contextual meaning is given.

**Table 4.2** Content Word.

No	Linguistic forms	Register items found in Football news of the JP
1	Noun	<i>squad, leg, winger, defender, derby, back, striker, draw,</i>
2	Verb	<i>kick off, score</i>
3	Noun-phrases (with attributive adjectives)	<i>midfielder, clean sheet,</i>
4	Noun Phrases (with noun)	<i>goalkeeper, hat-trick, own goal, half time, injury time, free kick, red card</i>

## **Discussion**

Based on the research result, there are eight tokens of noun found and two tokens of verb. While the token of the noun phrase, the writer only found nine tokens. In the form of noun phrases, two tokens in the category of attributive adjective and seven data of noun phrases. The results of the study show that the high-frequency data of linguistic form are in word content. This finding was also reported by Saputro (2018), who found that the dominant of linguistic form found on chants Manchester United and Manchester City are word content. He found that 22 tokens of content word in his research, 14 tokens of noun, eight tokens of verb. In the category of noun phrase five tokens. In addition, Rahmawati (2014) found that the high-frequency data of linguistic form are in word content, i.e., 16 tokens of content word and six tokens of noun phrase.

The second research question deals with the meaning of register used in *The Jakarta Post's Football News*. Based on the analysis, it was found that the high-frequency data of register meaning in social meaning. The social meaning is more frequently appear because there is a lot of new vocabulary is created in football news. Furthermore, it requires a broader understanding about the meaning. If we get the meaning only in the dictionary, we cannot get the best meaning. This result is also evidence to prove the initial assumption about the meaning of English registers which indicates specific things that can only understand by certain people. Additionally, this finding is also supported by Nuarni (2014), She also found in her research that the term register used in the oil field concept has a different meaning from the general concept. Nuarni conducted her research on the title *Register Analysis of the Conversations among Petroleum Engineers*.

Furthermore, the writer also found the social based on the context situation. According to Martin and Rose (2003), registers are distinguished into three general types or factors of dimension that affect us by context situations. The context situations of the register are included in Field, Mode, and Tenor. The field is the social setting and purpose of the interaction. The social setting of the register happened in football news. It happens when the publisher posts the news updates certainly about football, such as score updates, news of the last match, and news about the player or specific club. It has purpose to fulfill the meaning of each term about football based on linguistic form. So the reader can study deeply and understand the hidden meaning. It is observed that one speech used in communicating among others not only

reflects and expresses the aspects of identity, such as age and addressee but also indicates the context in which the language is used.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusion**

This research investigated the types of linguistic forms of English register and the meaning of register used in The Jakarta Post Football news. Based on data analysis and discussion in the previous chapter, the writer can conclude that there are two kinds of tokens in the form of content word, eight tokens of nouns, and two tokens of verbs. In the form of noun phrase, the writer found two tokens in the category of attributive adjective and seven tokens of noun in noun phrases.

In this research, all of English registers found in The Jakarta Post football news have different meanings when compared with their conceptual meaning in the dictionary. Some types of changes in meaning are served by the English registers found in The Jakarta Post football news when compared with their conceptual meaning in the dictionary. The most dominant type of change in meaning is social meaning. The reason of why many English registers are identified have undergone of social meaning is because the register meaning has widened from the conceptual meaning in which these new meanings are more appropriate to use in this context than before the change. This result is also evidence to prove the initial assumption about the meaning of English registers indicates specific things that certain people can only understand.

Furthermore, the writer also found the meaning based on the context situation. It consists of field, mode, and tenor. The field is the social setting and purpose of the interaction. The social setting of the register happened in the football newspaper. It happened when the publisher posted the news updates about football, such as score updates, news of the last match, and news about the player or specific club. It has a purpose to fulfill the meaning of each term about soccer based on linguistic form. So the reader can study deeply and understand the hidden meaning.

### **Suggestion**

In this research, the writer found that there are many register used in The Jakarta Post Football News. Therefore, in order to increase students' vocabulary in the football field, the writer suggests that teachers use The Jakarta Post's Football News as teaching material in

several subjects, such as reading. The results are also expected to give important insight and valuable information for educational practitioners in investigating the theoretical underpinnings of language variations. This present research deals with the identification of register where the analysis of the linguistic features is its main focus. Therefore, it is recommended for other researchers to conduct more studies about register analysis.

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